

necessary. Ultimately, the budget represents our Nation's priorities. Reducing deficits is a significant priority, and as my constituents in the 11th District of Virginia have made clear, protecting seniors and their Medicare is equally significant.

WARNING: LIGHTBULBS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's turn out the lights; the party is almost over for the incandescent lightbulb.

Four years ago, a law went into place which mandated that every lightbulb across America must be 25 percent more efficient by 2014. What this meant was that the incandescent lightbulb, Thomas Edison's greatest invention, is being banned and Americans will be forced to buy the government-selected replacement, the compact fluorescent lightbulb.

There are health risk problems with the compact fluorescent lightbulb, or the CFL as it's called. The National Institutes of Health states that fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. Now, isn't that lovely? Further, another Federal agency, the EPA, warns that the broken bulb contains mercury and will "continue to release mercury vapor until it is cleaned up and removed from the room."

Mr. Speaker, I thought we were trying to get rid of mercury in our products in this country. So, in case we happen to break one of these new glass fragile lightbulbs—and I have one here and I'll be very careful not to drop it on the House floor because if I do, we'll have to evacuate the House floor. Here's what the EPA says and advises we're to do to clean up the poisonous debris in this lightbulb.

I am reading from the EPA's verbatim Web site:

Have people and pets leave the room.

Air out the room for 5 to 10 minutes by opening a window or a door to the outdoors. Now, how you do that in a high-rise, Mr. Speaker? You are to shut off the central heating and air conditioning system.

Collect materials needed to clean up the broken bulb. I guess we have to use gloves and duct tape, and place the cleanup materials in a sealable container.

Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly.

Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials inside the room.

It goes on. Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating and air conditioning system shut off for several hours.

I might note this is just a condensed instruction. The EPA has provided more detailed instructions on its Web site, and I submit this 3-page, single-spaced, typed document of over 1,000

words on how to clean up one of these lightbulbs if it's broken into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

Recently, the French have noted that CFL bulbs can harm a child's vision because they contain arsenic, among other poisons, and the German scientists have found that these CFL bulbs can also cause cancer. Now, isn't that odd—that these bulbs mandated by the Federal Government actually are harmful to our health?

We should forget school lunches, Mr. Speaker. We now need to worry about our children's eyesight because of the lighting they sit under every day in a classroom, all thanks to the blind Federal Government. The Federal Government's anti-energy, anti-consumer choice regulation leaves Americans no other option but to purchase and use a harmful, poisonous product. If that's not reason enough to get rid of these bulbs, here's another one.

None of these bulbs are made in the U.S.A. You look very carefully on every one of these bulbs, they will say, "Made in China." That's right. Our good buddies, the Chinese, make all of these bulbs. The last factory in the United States that made incandescent lightbulbs closed down September 14, 2010. This ended a manufacturing industry that began all the way back to Thomas Edison.

So these job-producing lightbulb factories have been shipped off to China and now to Mexico, leaving even more Americans out of work. In fact, the lightbulb that I just read off of says that it is made in China, and it's in several languages, of course.

So the Federal Government imposed a burdensome, harmful-to-your-health regulation. An American factory closed. Jobs moved overseas. We've sort of heard this story before.

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But there's a bright spot to this sad tale. Just yesterday, the State of Texas passed a law that protects Texans from this absurd abuse of Federal power. The law will allow Texans to continue to buy incandescent bulbs that are made in the State of Texas, keeping the government out of people's lives and keeping jobs in America—even if it is in Texas.

And let's not forget that this regulation is unconstitutional. The Federal Government does not have the authority to force anybody to buy anything, from health care insurance to a box of doughnuts or even a light bulb, especially if the light bulb is hazardous to America's health. Nowhere in the Constitution does the Federal Government have such abuse of power.

So it's time we repeal the unconstitutional job-killing, bad-for-your-health light bulb mandate. Otherwise, it looks like we'll be singing "the party's over" for the incandescent light bulb. "Because they say that all good things must end. Call it a night. The party's over. And tomorrow starts the same old thing again."

And that's just the way it is.

WHAT TO DO IF A COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT (CFL) BULB OR FLUORESCENT TUBE LIGHT BULB BREAKS IN YOUR HOME: DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

SOURCE: EPA.GOV

BEFORE CLEANUP

1. Have people and pets leave the room, and avoid the breakage area on the way out.
2. Open a window or door to the outdoors and leave the room for 5–10 minutes.
3. Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning (H&AC) system, if you have one.
4. Collect materials you will need to clean up the broken bulb:

Stiff paper or cardboard; sticky tape (e.g., duct tape); damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces); glass jar with a metal lid (such as a canning jar) or a sealable plastic bag(s).

CLEANUP STEPS FOR HARD SURFACES

1. Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place debris and paper/cardboard in a glass jar with a metal lid. If a glass jar is not available, use a sealable plastic bag. (NOTE: Since a plastic bag will not prevent the mercury vapor from escaping, remove the plastic bag(s) from the home after cleanup.)

2. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.

3. Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.

4. Vacuuming of hard surfaces during cleanup is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. [NOTE: It is possible that vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor, although available information on this problem is limited.] If vacuuming is needed to ensure removal of all broken glass, keep the following tips in mind:

Keep a window or door to the outdoors open; vacuum the area where the bulb was broken using the vacuum hose, if available; and remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and seal the bag/vacuum debris, and any materials used to clean the vacuum, in a plastic bag.

5. Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly.

Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your area. Some states and communities require fluorescent bulbs (broken or unbroken) be taken to a local recycling center.

6. Wash your hands with soap and water after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing bulb debris and cleanup materials.

7. Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the H&AC system shut off, as practical, for several hours.

CLEANUP STEPS FOR CARPETING OR RUGS

1. Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place debris and paper/cardboard in a glass jar with a metal lid. If a glass jar is not available, use a sealable plastic bag. (NOTE: Since a plastic bag will not prevent the mercury vapor from escaping, remove the plastic bag(s) from the home after cleanup.)

2. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.

3. Vacuuming of carpeting or rugs during cleanup is not recommended unless broken

glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. [NOTE: It is possible that vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor, although available information on this problem is limited.] If vacuuming is needed to ensure removal of all broken glass, keep the following tips in mind: Keep a window or door to the outdoors open; vacuum the area where the bulb was broken using the vacuum hose, if available; and remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and seal the bag/vacuum debris, and any materials used to clean the vacuum, in a plastic bag.

4. Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly.

Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your area. Some states and communities require fluorescent bulbs (broken or unbroken) be taken to a local recycling center.

5. Wash your hands with soap and water after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing bulb debris and cleanup materials.

6. Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the H&AC system shut off, as practical, for several hours.

FUTURE CLEANING OF CARPETING OR RUGS: AIR OUT THE ROOM DURING AND AFTER VACUUMING

1. The next several times you vacuum the rug or carpet, shut off the H&AC system if you have one, close the doors to other rooms, and open a window or door to the outside before vacuuming. Change the vacuum bag after each use in this area.

2. After vacuuming is completed, keep the H&AC system shut off and the window or door to the outside open, as practical, for several hours.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO PREVENT BROKEN COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Fluorescent bulbs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. To avoid breaking a bulb, follow these general practices:

Always switch off and allow a working CFL bulb to cool before handling.

Always handle CFL bulbs carefully to avoid breakage.

If possible, screw/unscrew the CFL by holding the plastic or ceramic base, not the glass tubing.

Gently screw in the CFL until snug. Do not over-tighten.

Never forcefully twist the glass tubing.

Consider not using CFLs in lamps that can be easily knocked over, in unprotected light fixtures, or in lamps that are incompatible with the spiral or folded shape of many CFLs.

Do not use CFL bulbs in locations where they can easily be broken, such as play spaces.

Use CFL bulbs that have a glass or plastic cover over the spiral or folded glass tube, if available. These types of bulbs look more like incandescent bulbs and may be more durable if dropped.

Consider using a drop cloth (e.g., plastic sheet or beach towel) when changing a fluorescent light bulb in case a breakage should occur. The drop cloth will help prevent mercury contamination of nearby surfaces and can be bundled with the bulb debris for disposal.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DeFAZIO. We've seen some pretty miserable employment numbers recently, but the real unemployment rate is actually about twice what you read in the paper. It's closer to 18 percent, with discouraged workers and people who are underemployed.

Now, can we look to Washington for solutions? On the Republican side of the aisle, the answer is simple: more tax cuts. That will put people back to work. Let's see, for 10 years now, we've been living under the Bush tax cuts; and we've had the worst job creation for the last decade since World War II.

Now, it doesn't seem to be working too well, but it is all based on the theory of trickle-down. But I think at this point, the American people have been trickled on so much, particularly those who are unemployed and looking for work, that they'd like an umbrella and they'd like a little shelter from these nonsensical policies.

Can we look to the White House? Well, unfortunately, things aren't a lot better down at the White House. They went along with the Republicans on quite a bit of these tax cuts. Forty percent of the so-called stimulus was tax cuts. Seven percent—one-sixth of that—was invested in infrastructure. And guess what, that investment at one-sixth the cost of the tax cuts put a heck of a lot more people to work, investment in building things and in the future of our country, as opposed to debt-driven consumption-driven tax cuts.

Last December, the President caved, went along with extending the Bush tax cuts, and we've still got miserable job creation. Oh, wow, that's a surprise. Now they've floated a balloon. The White House has a great new idea. Let's continue the Social Security tax holiday. That was added to the Bush tax cuts in December. That's created a lot of jobs. Sure, working families can use an extra \$15 a week. But what about the 20 million people who are unemployed? They don't get any of that. And how much of that \$15 a week, how many jobs does that create? But the White House thinks we should extend that, and maybe we should give it on the employer side too.

So here's the way it will work: we don't have the money. We're going to cut the Social Security tax again. We have to make the trust fund whole. So we'll borrow \$200 billion from China that we'll put into the Social Security trust fund, and that's going to put America back to work. What a great idea. Wait a minute, how about we take that \$200 billion the White House wants to borrow to extend the Social Security tax holiday and we invest it into real things, the Nation's crumbling infrastructure?

We have 20 percent unemployment in the construction industry, and it isn't just construction workers who go to work when we rebuild our infrastructure. We have Buy America requirements. They're all American jobs, and everything that goes into every job is

made in America. If it's a transit system, you've got engineers; you've got software; you've got high-tech manufacturing. If it's a bridge, you've got steel; you've got concrete; you've got engineering design; you've got construction workers. If it's a highway, the same thing.

Take that money, take that \$200 billion they want to borrow and give a Social Security tax holiday. Instead, invest it in the future of this country and things that will serve our country for 100 years, make us more productive, more efficient, and you can look your grandkids in the eye 15, 20, 30 years from today and say, Yes, that's right, we borrowed that money; and you are still paying the bill.

If you give it for a Social Security tax holiday, he is going to say, Granddad, what did you spend that \$17 on that week? Because I am paying the bill. But how about if Granddad can say, We built that bridge; we built that transit system; we rebuilt our national transportation system. We put millions to work and, guess what, that system will serve you for another 100 years.

That's an investment versus consumption. Everybody around here is just into consumption. We need to invest in the future of our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF TWO MEN FROM HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the opportunity in Hobbs, New Mexico, to attend two services, recognition ceremonies for people from Hobbs. First of all, we were able to attend the retirement for Dr. Dean Mathis, who pastored Taylor Memorial Baptist Church for 36 years, same preacher, same church. That is just not heard of these days in America.

All teachers are required to do two very difficult things. They are required to push our knowledge base to the extreme limits of what we are able to know; but simultaneously to that, they have to stay grounded in truth. In other words, you can't just teach out to the edge of the learning envelope. You also have to stay grounded in the timeless principles that cause things to be relevant and true. Dr. Mathis did this with extreme care and with a delicacy that I found always attractive. He was able to bring biblical lessons to life in our personal lives and bring relevance to these teachings.

I think that also he perfected community participation at all levels. From his one small congregation there in Hobbs, New Mexico, we have city counselors, county commissioners, judges, two State representatives, a State senator, and a U.S. Congressman.

Now, that says a lot, coming from one small corner of the State of New Mexico. But his life didn't end there. He also had two missionaries check in